

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 4, as the following:

-- Figs. 4A-T schematically illustrate plasmid pRL5-CAT, including the ~~double-stranded~~ nucleic acid sequence, (comprising SEQ. ID. NO: 1 ~~and SEQ. ID. NO: 2~~) and domains corresponding to particular genes.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 6, as the following:

-- Any naturally occurring or synthetic plasmid can be used as the single strand, circular nucleic acid 12. Particularly useful plasmids include an origin of replication from filamentous phage (such as, for example an f1, M13 or fd origin of replication) which allows single stranded replication. Useful plasmids can contain from about 100 bases to about 10 kilobases (kb), more preferably from about 1700 bases to about 10 kb, most preferably, 1700 bases to about 7.5 kb. The single strand, circular nucleic acid 12 can be obtained from a double stranded plasmid, if desired, by methods known to those skilled in the art. Suitable starting plasmids are known and/or commercially available and include, for example, pComb 3H and its derivatives, Bluescript™ and its derivatives (available from Strategene, LaJolla, CA), M13 type vectors such as M13MP18 and M13MP19 (available from New England Biolabs, Beverly, MA), pHEN 1 (see Hoogenboom et al., 19917, Nucl. Acids Res. Vol. 19, pages 4133-4137), fd-tet-DOG 1 (*id.*), pGem plasmids (Promega, Madison, WI), pSL1180 Superlinker Phagmid (available from Amersham Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ), pcDNA2.1 (available from Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA), the pLITMUS Series, including pLITMUS 28, pLITMUS 29, pLITMUS 38, and pLITMUS 39 (available from New England Biolabs, Beverly, MA), and the pFLAG Series, including pFLAG-MAC, pFLAG-ATS, pFLAG-CTC, pFLAG-CTS and pFLAG-SHIFT (available from Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO). A particularly preferred starting plasmid is pRL5-CAT vector. pRL5-CAT is a derivative of pComb 3X (accessible in GenBank as accession no. AF268281) which has been modified to contain chloramphenicol resistance. A map and the sequence of the single strand pRL5-CAT vector are shown in Figs. 2 and 3A-C, respectively. The nucleic acid

sequence of double strand pRL5-CAT vector is shown in Figs. 4A through 4T as including SEQ. ID. No: 1 and ~~SEQ. ID. No: 2.~~